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Annual Reception of the Columbia University's

Russian Institute Oct. 23, 1967

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The reception was attended by three of the Soviet
exchange students: William Martchian, Lev Skvorzov and
Lyudmila Kasatkina.

Yehudovich
William Martchian

Ap A-1 333 W 88 St., New York 24

About 5'5" tall, 170 lbs, dark hair receding from the
forehead, dark complexion partly caused by heavy beard "goatee".

Prefers to be called "William" because of difficult
pronunciation of his last name.

He is an economist. Most of his formal education was completed
in the capital of Armenia, and he did not learn to speak Russian
until he arrived in Moscow to work on his PhD. William is
quick to emphasize that he is an Armenian, especially when
someone refers to him (even indirectly) as a Russian.

While working on his doctorate in world economy, he
tried to get a job at an economics institute where he knew there
was an opening for someone with his qualifications. But he was
told by the head of the institute -- an Armenian -- that there
were no openings. William said he waited until the head went
on his annual leave, applied to the deputy director, and received
the job, which he apparently still holds, and is apparently
on good terms with the head of the institute. William tells
the story as a humorous anecdote.

At Columbia he is studying the problems of economic
growth. He has been here one month, and said he did not have
a chance yet to meet very many people -- something he would

Dir. Cooper, Rostovsky, CHOMIAK, J. L.
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1946 to 50. So far he has met one of his compatriots in the USA, an Armenian-American -- but he could not visit him. He said, "It was not an Armenian name," he said.

William was the least critical of the three. He admits there are good aspects in the study of economics in the USA and the USSR, although the two differ. His criticism was that "you can't study Soviet economy properly by staying here and relying only on published material." For this reason he approves the exchange program.

William reads the New York Times regularly. In the course of the conversation he admitted that he likes the American way of newspaper writing better than the Soviet, because it is clearer, tighter, and "I can get the whole story just by reading the first few paragraphs." But he took a great deal of time to defend the Soviet style of journalism, where, among other things, a government decree provides that most of the content of a newspaper is written by non-staff members (mainly by experts and specialists in various fields). He said it was true the specialists' stories were clumsy, but they were interesting to read. He also said any worker in the USSR can write to a newspaper about an injustice and the newspaper immediately sends its staffers to investigate. He was told that this is also done in the USA by means of an exposé, but only on major issues. William said it was interesting to hear this. He was not aware of this before.

Mr. Martchian speaks English quite well. He said he learned the language at university and on his

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R asked William whether he knew of the world-famous Armenian, Canadian photographer Yousuf Karsh. William said he did not, and R told him pictures of the Soviet dignitaries taken by Karsh appeared recently in Life magazine. He said he would send William the copy of Life and asked for William's address, who gave it readily, but immediately showed signs of confusion. To put him at ease, R gave him his own address. The next day R mailed William the issue of Life devoted to the USSR.

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Lev Skvorzov

Address believed to be:

International House
500 Riverside Dr. NY 27, NY

An exchange student from the USSR at Columbia. Attended the Russian Institute reception at the university Oct. 22, 1963.

He is of medium height and weight. Has blond hair with a receding hairline. About 35 years old.

Mr. Skvorzov acted as more or less a "yes man" to Miss Kasatkina. He complained about the lack of comfort here and about the unpleasantness of the people.

He is studying methodology in philosophy.

Ljudmila Kasetkina

Address believed to be: International Ho
500 Riverside Dr, NY 2

An exchange student from Moscow. Attended the Russian
Institute reception at Columbia Oct 22, 1963.

She is about 5'4", blond, with plain hairdo tied in a
bun at the back of the head. She has a heavy, matronly appearance
and weigh about 160 lbs.

Miss Kasetkina is a lecturer in literature at Moscow
University. She is here to study American and Australian literature

Of the three students she was most critical. She did
not like the high prices for everything in New York, the messy
streets, and the postal employees. Apparently a clerk at a
post office told her the air mail letter to Moscow costs
25 cents, not 15, as she had thought, "because Moscow is
in Asia." Miss Kasetkina was particularly insulted by this.

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